

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method to facilitate automated software installation on a remote computer over the Internet, comprising:
 - 3 initializing the remote computer with a custom operating system, wherein the custom operating system allows access to the remote computer over the
 - 5 Internet and provides functionality to determine the location of an archive,
 - 6 download the archive, install the archived software and restart the remote
 - 7 computer;
- 8 providing an archive locator to the remote computer, wherein the archive locator is one of, a uniform resource locator (URL) and a proprietary resource locator;
- 11 requesting an archive from a site specified by the archive locator, wherein the archive includes an operating system and desired software packages pre-configured for the remote computer;
- 14 downloading the archive to the remote computer from the site specified by the archive locator; and
- 16 re-initializing the remote computer with the operating system and software packages in the archive.

- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising loading the custom operating system into the remote computer during installation of the remote computer.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising initializing
2 the remote computer automatically with the custom operating system when power
3 is applied to the remote computer.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 creating the archive;
3 storing the archive at a site on the Internet accessible using the archive
4 locator; and
5 upon receiving an authorized request for the archive from the remote
6 computer, downloading the archive to the remote computer.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein creating the archive
2 involves:
3 specifying the operating system and software packages to be included;
4 installing the operating system and software packages on a configuration
5 computer compatible with the remote computer;
6 testing the operating system and software packages on the configuration
7 computer;
8 creating a snapshot of the operating system and software packages;
9 including a configuration file within the snapshot; and
10 saving the snapshot at the site specified by the archive locator for
11 download by the remote computer, wherein the snapshot including the
12 configuration file is the archive.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the configuration file
2 includes data for configuring the operating system, network parameters, and
3 software packages.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the archive
2 locator includes providing the archive locator over the Internet.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the archive
2 locator includes providing the archive locator in a command line parameter during
3 initialization of the remote computer.

1 9. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing
2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a
3 method to facilitate automated software installation on a remote computer over
4 the Internet, the method comprising:

5 initializing the remote computer with a custom operating system, wherein
6 the custom operating system allows access to the remote computer over the
7 Internet and provides functionality to determine the location of an archive,
8 download the archive, install the archived software and restart the remote
9 computer;

10 providing an archive locator to the remote computer, wherein the archive
11 locator is one of, a uniform resource locator (URL) and a proprietary resource
12 locator;

13 requesting an archive from a site specified by the archive locator, wherein
14 the archive includes an operating system and desired software packages pre-
15 configured for the remote computer;

16 downloading the archive to the remote computer from the site specified by
17 the archive locator; and

18 re-initializing the remote computer with the operating system and software
19 packages in the archive.

1 10. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, the
2 method further comprising loading the custom operating system into the remote
3 computer during installation of the remote computer.

1 11. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, the
2 method further comprising initializing the remote computer automatically with the
3 custom operating system when power is applied to the remote computer.

1 12. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, the
2 method further comprising:
3 creating the archive;
4 storing the archive at a site on the Internet accessible using the archive
5 locator; and
6 upon receiving an authorized request for the archive from the remote
7 computer, downloading the archive to the remote computer.

1 13. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12,
2 wherein creating the archive involves:
3 specifying the operating system and software packages to be included;
4 installing the operating system and software packages on a configuration
5 computer compatible with the remote computer;
6 testing the operating system and software packages on the configuration
7 computer;
8 creating a snapshot of the operating system and software packages;
9 including a configuration file within the snapshot; and
10 saving the snapshot at the site specified by the archive locator for
11 download by the remote computer, wherein the snapshot including the
12 configuration file is the archive.

1 14. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13,
2 wherein the configuration file includes data for configuring the operating system,
3 network parameters, and software packages.

1 15. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9,
2 wherein providing the archive locator includes providing the archive locator over
3 the Internet.

1 16. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9,
2 wherein providing the archive locator includes providing the archive locator in a
3 command line parameter during initialization of the remote computer.

1 17. (Currently amended) An apparatus that facilitates automated
2 software installation on a remote computer over the Internet, comprising:
3 an initializing mechanism that is configured to initialize the remote
4 computer with a custom operating system, wherein the custom operating system
5 allows access to the remote computer over the Internet and provides functionality
6 to determine the location of an archive, download the archive, install the archived
7 software and restart the remote computer;

8 a providing mechanism that is configured to provide an archive locator to
9 the remote computer, wherein the archive locator is one of a uniform resource
10 locator (URL) and a proprietary resource locator;

11 a requesting mechanism that is configured to request an archive from a site
12 specified by the archive locator, wherein the archive includes an operating system
13 and desired software packages pre-configured for the remote computer;

14 a downloading mechanism that is configured to download the archive to
15 the remote computer from the site specified by the archive locator; and

16 a re-initializing mechanism that is configured to re-initialize the remote
17 computer with the operating system and software packages in the archive.

1 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a loading
2 mechanism that is configured to load the custom operating system into the remote
3 computer during installation of the remote computer.

1 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the initializing
2 mechanism is further configured to initialize the remote computer automatically
3 with the custom operating system when power is applied to the remote computer.

1 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
2 a creating mechanism that is configured to create the archive;
3 a storing mechanism that is configured to store the archive at a site on the
4 Internet accessible using the archive locator; and
5 wherein the downloading mechanism is further configured to download
6 the archive to the remote computer.

1 21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:
2 a specifying mechanism that is configured to specify the operating system
3 and software packages to be included;
4 an installing mechanism that is configured to install the operating system
5 and software packages on a configuration computer compatible with the remote
6 computer;
7 a testing mechanism that is configured to test the operating system and
8 software packages on the configuration computer;
9 wherein the creating mechanism is further configured to create a snapshot
10 of the operating system and software packages;

11 an including mechanism that is configured to include a configuration file
12 within the snapshot; and
13 a saving mechanism that is configured to save the snapshot at the site
14 specified by the archive locator for download by the remote computer, wherein the
15 snapshot including the configuration file is the archive.

1 22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the configuration
2 file includes data for configuring the operating system, network parameters, and
3 software packages.

1 23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein providing the
2 archive locator includes providing the archive locator over the Internet.

1 24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein providing the
2 archive locator includes providing the archive locator in a command line
3 parameter during initialization of the remote computer.